



## State of Connecticut

### SENATE

STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

**SENATOR KEVIN KELLY**  
TWENTY-FIRST SENATE DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
SUITE 3400  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591  
CAPITOL: (860) 240-8800  
TOLL FREE: (800) 842-1421  
FAX: (860) 240-8306  
E-Mail: [Kevin.Kelly@cga.ct.gov](mailto:Kevin.Kelly@cga.ct.gov)  
[www.SenatorKevinKelly.com](http://www.SenatorKevinKelly.com)

**RANKING MEMBER**

AGING COMMITTEE

INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE

**MEMBER**

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

### Planning and Development Committee

**Friday February 1, 2013**

Good morning Chairmen Cassano and Rojas, Ranking Members Fasano and Aman;

I am Kevin Kelly, State Senator from the 21st District representing Monroe, Seymour, Shelton and Stratford.

I am here today to testify in support of SB 223 – AN ACT CONCERNING UNFUNDED MANDATES.

The towns that I represent struggle day to day as do many other towns in our state. In an effort to provide municipal relief and prevent unnecessary mandates I fully support the initiatives put forth in this bill. SB 23 would do the following:

- 1) Sunset all current unfunded mandates on our cities and towns.
- 2) Enact a 2/3 majority vote requirement for all future mandates, especially unfunded ones, which will impact our municipalities directly. This would both prove to our towns and cities that we are listening and responding to their requests for help.

In addition to the sunset and two-thirds vote, I would eventually like to see enacted an audit requirement for any large municipality in Connecticut which receives over 35% of its annual operating budget through state grants-in-aid. This would ensure that the financial support sent out from Hartford is being properly used and monitored. If this money is being wasted, it needs to be redirected to a place where it can provide more help.

Due to the fiscal troubles faced by the State of Connecticut over the past several years, municipalities need all the help they can get. Our towns are further hurt by the burdens on residents and citizens of Connecticut through increased utility bills, mortgage troubles and the high general cost of living.

There are estimated to be some 1,200 mandates, many of which are not funded by the state. The relationship between the state and a municipality is similar to that of parent and child. Every time we pass legislation that shifts a government cost onto our towns, we must think long and hard about that cost. This bill would create that much needed focus before the Legislature enacts a bill to shift the government cost to a town. Connecticut municipalities are stretched beyond normal limits, and we as a legislature should be doing everything we can to help them.